

Therapeutic neighborhood is being developed in Madison

By Karin Krause, RN, BSN

Hope & A Future III Inc. is a charitable non-profit corporation in the process of developing a staffed Therapeutic Interactive Intergenerational Neighborhood (TIIN) in Madison. Our target groups, seniors and young families in poverty, are the fastest growing segments of our population. With the help of many we were able to get this idea off the launch pad in November 2013.

An article telling about the genesis of the idea was published in *Nursingmatters* in June 2013 and another article letting you know about our serious need for help to move forward was published in September. I am very blessed to report that we received a donation large enough to move forward!

The goal at Hope & A Future is to create a staffed intentional neighborhood where everyone is both helped and a helper. Seniors can mentor, love and befriend young families while those same families can be supportive friends

BELOW: Karin Krause's family share a Christmas brunch with three of the residents they care for. Far right, Rick Krause; Karin; Pat, daughter of Heidi and son-in-law Tony; daughter Katie, Margaret and Joanna.

FAR RIGHT: A backyard view of the foundation for the new addition – just before the cold weather hit.



to seniors. Both groups will benefit from purpose and belonging while living hopeful lives that lead to happier futures. We are strengthening the generations by bringing them together!

This idea needed 3 to 5 acres of land, a large Adult Family Home with space for intergenerational activities and enough land to develop community spaces and housing for healthy seniors and young families interested in living in a goal directed mutually supportive neighborhood. With the help of Middleton Community Bank and the philanthropic Middleton business man, Brad Duesler, we were able to jump off the starting block.

The bank generously allowed for a year of interest-only payments. However to make principle and interest payments, we needed an accessible addition that would allow us to care for more residents. Banks cannot loan money to businesses less than a year old that have no equity – so we were

denied twice! When the bank was asked what it would take for us to get a loan for the addition, their response was \$65,000 in donations.

That seemed impossible but we tried everything! Things were looking bleak. But suddenly and to our absolute amazement, an individual that knew about us found out that a friend had a mother living in our facility. They told him that “The care is so wonderful that we are sleeping again at night.” To make a long story short, he donated the entire needed amount. What joy!

We worked on a tight construction budget and our project manager agreed to work with qualified volunteers to stretch our budget. Again to our amazement, a nearby church encouraged members to offer volunteer help and they responded along with our consulting feasibility study professional, board members and friends! The latest figures showed that we saved \$23,000 with volunteer help!

A wonderful thing is going on over here. A community of volunteers is building a new kind of community!

The frail seniors we care for and live with are surrounded daily with the excitement of building something new. Diseases progress yet spirits rise with hope and laughter. Every day our residents share meals at the big dining room table with staff and volunteers! It is like a daily holiday with dusty paint splattered new friends telling stories and sharing laughs.

We are back to work on the feasibility study for the rest of the development and awaiting inspections and licensing for the addition. Workers are tired and excited as our hopeful future unfolds! We are planning spring events including an open house, fundraiser at Sprecher's with the Krause Family Band, a golf event, educational opportunities, pot luck/house concerts, and volunteer opportunities in the yard and gardens.

Please LIKE our Facebook page, Hope & A Future III Inc. and visit our website, hopeandafutureinc.org for updates! We covet the support of nurses as we plow forward! There is more fun to come as we unfold our plans for the future development! We continue to believe that if we miss the untapped resource that baby boomers are, we will have missed a great opportunity to reach out to some of society's intractable problems. ■

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608.663.4255, gps@edgewood.edu